



Refreshed public housing tower designs revealed

The state government has revealed concept plans for the redevelopment of public housing towers at Elgin and Nicholson streets in Carlton, which will provide 248 social homes across two buildings, each featuring private balconies and rising 16 and 18-storeys high. Read more at innercitynews.com.au

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Carlton residents and traders debate the future of Lygon St

“The Carlton Residents’ Association has released its vision for future upgrades it wants to see along Lygon St to help “rejuvenate” the area, but not all businesses agree with its ideas.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The Carlton Residents’ Association has released its vision for future upgrades it wants to see along Lygon St to help “rejuvenate” the area, but not all businesses agree with its ideas.

Lygon St is currently experiencing a period of renewal,

with improvements to COVID-era shopfront vacancies and increased nightlife on any given night. However, residents and traders worry about its long-term future and believe changes are needed to maintain its appeal.

The Carlton Residents’ Association (CRA) has suggested a range of measures to help rejuvenate Lygon St and make it an even greater centre for visitors, traders and residents, including:

- Changing the strip to one lane each way to reduce through traffic
- Reducing speed limits to 30 km/h for pedestrian safety and to reduce hooning
- Removal of outdoor dining parklets to allow for additional on-street parking
- Widening the footpath on both sides by three metres and incorporating low planting
- Coordinated street design across businesses, such as umbrellas, signs and bins
- Installation of bluestone paving

CRA member Peter Sander said that implementing these changes would help to “lift the image” of the strip. “We believe it would rejuvenate the area, and benefit businesses and pedestrians,” Mr Sanders told *Inner City News*.

Continued on page 7.

LYGON LOCAL, PAGE 2

Bibi Ji: “not your typical Indian joint”

CRIME, PAGE 8

War memorial in Parkville defaced on eve of Australia Day

NEWS



INNER CITY LOCAL, PAGE 9

“It costs nothing to be kind”: Carlton local making a difference, one vacuum at a time

Tori is the epitome of a great neighbour, utilising her niche interest and skills in vacuum maintenance to help the community she’s called home for 17 years.



100% of the artwork price goes directly to First Nations artists

Image: Tupun Wultatinyeri (Ngarrindjeri/Kukabrak) *Mangakeinal #2*, acrylic on canvas, 79 x 89 cm. Courtesy the artist.

Artworks and products available online or at The Torch Gallery 146 Elgin St Carlton

Open by appointment: Mon–Fri
Phone: 03 9042 1236

www.thetorch.org.au



HYPERLOCAL
NEWS

CONTACT

Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands 3008
innercitynews.com.au
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR

Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

ADVERTISING

Hyper-local print works for
advertisers in our digital world
because local people are
interested in local news.

To sell to the inner-city community,
contact Sean Car on 0460 896 115 or
sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome.
Send letters, articles and images to:
georgie@hyperlocalnews.com.au

The deadline for the March edition is
February 21

Opinions expressed by
contributors are not necessarily
shared by the publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Follow us on social media
by searching @innercity_news



Bibi Ji: “not your typical Indian joint”

In 2023, Lygon St bid farewell to a beloved institution, Café Notturmo. But as one chapter closed, another began with the opening of Bibi Ji – bringing authentic Indian cuisine to the heart of Melbourne’s Italian precinct.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



From the team behind Horn Please in Fitzroy North and Kyneton’s Dhaba at the Mill comes a fresh “casual Indian diner” concept, envisioned by chef and owner Amar Singh.

“I always wanted something on Lygon St to see if the Indian market was there,” Mr Singh told *Inner City News*.

“There’s a lot of communities around that want Indian food to be sold. Some Australians have never tried Indian food at all, so that makes us happy to serve people who have never tasted it before.”

At Bibi Ji, the menu takes diners on a journey through India’s diverse culinary landscape. Inspired by “traditional Indian food enjoyed in our homes and on the streets,” the dishes capture the essence of India’s many regions.

From the rich coffee of the south, to Amritsari fish from the north; the menu offers something for every taste and background.

One of their most popular dishes is the banana leaf thali – a vibrant platter featuring snacks, curries, chutneys, rice, and bread, giving guests the chance to sample a range of regional specialties in one meal.

But it’s not just about the food. Stepping into Bibi Ji is an experience in itself, with a lively atmosphere and a burst of colour that

transports diners to India.

“People want to come and have an experience,” Mr Singh said.

“Whether they’re coming for a date night or maybe a celebration, they’re coming here because they want to create a memory.”

Opening an Indian restaurant in a street known for its Italian heritage was no small feat, but Mr Singh says the community has embraced the change with open arms, and his neighbours have been nothing but welcoming.

“The best part about being in Carlton is the hospitality culture, it’s just booming,” he said.

“People in Carlton are exploring so many different cuisines at the moment, and they want their meals to be memorable. That’s what we’re trying to do.” ●

Real help from real,
local bankers

Whether it’s personal or business,
if you’re after knowledge on loans,
credit cards or everyday banking,
nothing beats a local banker.

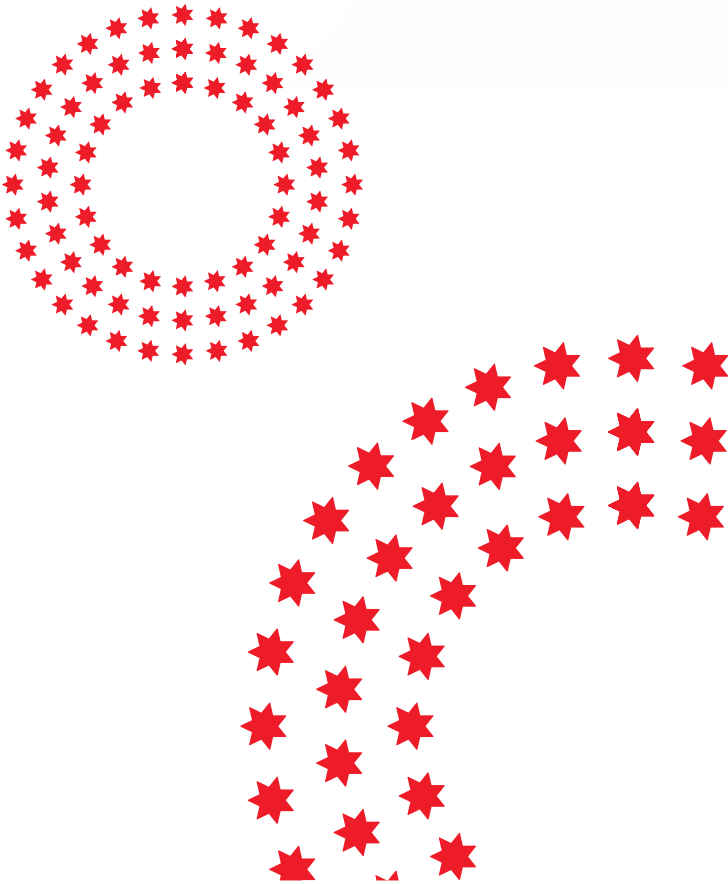
Let’s talk

NAB Carlton
288 Lygon Street, Carlton
Ph: 0452 670 483

more
than
money



nab



T&Cs, fees, charges and eligibility & lending criteria may apply for NAB products (available on request).
© 2022 National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence 230686 A157855-0922

From barrister to Deputy Lord Mayor: Roshena Campbell shares her vision for the city's future

“

As the newly elected Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Roshena Campbell looks back on Team Reece's "people-powered" campaign and shares her strong commitment to the "long-term future of the city."

”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

With her background as a barrister and expertise as councillor during the previous council term, Cr Campbell says she has always sought roles that champion and advocate for the rights of others.

"I love that role of being trusted to be somebody's voice, to fight for an outcome for them. I do think these are certainly skills that I bring to Town Hall," Cr Campbell told *Inner City News*.

"That opportunity for public service that you get at council is a really exciting, it's a level of government that's closest to people."

"You actually get to change the way they go about their day-to-day lives, whether that's their ability to move around the city easily, the ability for people to open businesses in the city, and importantly, people feeling safe and that they have a clean and prosperous city."

Although running on an independent ticket with Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Cr Campbell is a member of the Liberal Party, in contrast to her running mate's ties to the Labor Party.

Despite concerns that their decision to run on a "unity ticket" might threaten their chances by losing Labor preferences to Team Wood, their victory ultimately secured a mandate for a fresh, collaborative approach to leadership in the city.

"I am so honoured that Nick asked me to run with him, and I think that one of the things that you will very much see us both committed to is making sure that we do not waste a single day of this term," Cr Campbell said.

"It is such an honour to be able to serve in these roles, and we want to make sure that we're not wasting a minute, and that we are

getting on with the job of delivering."

The transition from councillor to Deputy Lord Mayor undoubtedly brings with it greater responsibility and increased pressure.

However, Cr Campbell says that "the most important thing you can do, no matter what role you have at Town Hall, is to make sure you're always out there and continuing to listen to people".

Her campaign highlight? Engaging with the community and "speaking to residents who we might not otherwise hear from".

"We represent the small businesses of Melbourne, and those people are so busy that they don't often have time to come into Town Hall and tell us what their concerns are, or tell us the changes they need to see," she told *Inner City News*.

"Having that opportunity to actually go out to them and speak to them and listen to both residents and businesses directly was such a highlight."

For Cr Campbell, the campaign offered valuable insight into not only the changes Melburnians are hoping for, but also the aspects of the city they wish to see more of.

"An example of that would be parks and gardens in the City of Melbourne. People love our green spaces and want to see more of them, that's why that was one of our election promises."

The new council is currently in the process of developing its annual plan and budget, which will outline priorities for the next four years.

However, one thing Cr Campbell is certain about is that city safety and cleanliness will be top priorities in the first half of the year.

"I don't think that we have a licence to do anything else unless people who live and

work and visit the city feel that it is safe and clean," she said.

"That's why we've implemented the Clean 10 contract, which means we've got people on the ground now 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so that we can respond to things much more quickly than ever before."

"We're seeing huge levels of visitation in the city, which is a really exciting thing. That means that we need to make sure that the city presents itself at its best."

Cr Campbell, excited by the "diverse experiences and views" within the new council, believes that "the one thing uniting all of us is to make sure that Melbourne is a city that everybody is proud of".

"My kids have grown up in the city. They learned to swim at Carlton Baths, read at Kathleen Syme, and they've taken their first

steps in Carlton Gardens. The city is very much at the heart of our family life, and I really am very conscious of making sure that it is a good place for people to raise a family," she said.

"I moved to Melbourne when I was 18, and my first home was in the CBD. With Melbourne being the fastest-growing city in Australia, it is so important that we make sure that not only do we have housing to meet that population growth, but we have a place that it is a pleasure to live."

"Investing in parks and gardens, for example, I think is so important because it's just critical that people who live in the CBD or the inner city have open space. That amenity is what has always made Melbourne a fantastic place for me to live and to raise a family, but I want that to be the case for future generations as well." ●

Poolhouse Coffee

Poolhouse Coffee is a little oasis tucked beneath the Melbourne City Baths, offering tasty sandwiches, rice paper rolls, pastries and a range of treats. They roast their own coffee beans including a seasonal house blend and single origins.

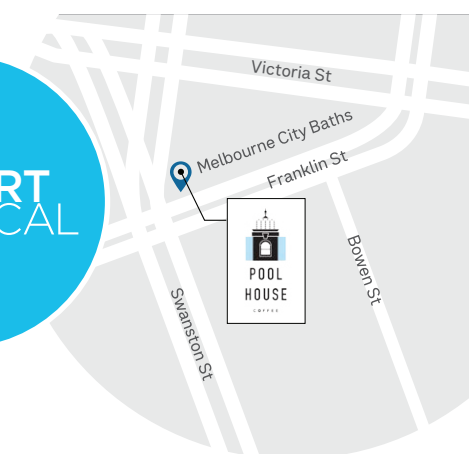
Feel free to eat in and have a chat to the friendly staff.

Opening Hours
Mon–Thu: 7am–3pm
Fri: 7am–2pm

6 Franklin St
poolhousecoffee

Supporting
business

SUPPORT
LOCAL



Construction partner:
Design & Construction

CYP-BS00446

“Victoria’s biggest export”: how an international student cap would affect Melbourne

“The City of Melbourne and its local universities are preparing to navigate uncertain times as the possibility of an international student cap remains a concern ahead of the upcoming federal election.”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The federal government’s proposed student cap, which aimed to reduce enrolments to a maximum of 270,000, was blocked by the Liberals and Greens in the last week of parliament in December. However, a few weeks later a new visa processing directive, Ministerial Direction 111 (MD 111), was introduced.

The directive allows visa applications to be prioritised for international students coming to study at Australian education providers. However, once 80 per cent of a provider’s indicative allocation is reached, student visas are no longer prioritised.

“There remains considerable uncertainty about the precise details of the government’s approach to enforcing restrictions on student numbers,” a spokesperson from the University of Melbourne told *Inner City News*.

“In the meantime, the University will continue to do everything it can to prepare for

the short- and long-term impacts of this proposed policy change.”

International students currently account for 45 per cent of the University of Melbourne’s student population, while they make up 24 per cent of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology’s (RMIT) onshore cohort.

RMIT University vice chancellor and president, Professor Alex Cameron, said, “we want to ensure equity and inclusion at our universities so that international student numbers are spread across universities around the country.”

While Labor’s contentious cap was blocked, Liberal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton believes it did not go far enough.

Speaking at his campaign launch in the Victorian electorate of Chisholm on January 12, he said, “we will work with major metropolitan universities to set stricter caps on foreign students to relieve pressure on city rental markets.”

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that he didn’t support a student cap and that he wanted more students in Melbourne due to the economic and social benefits they brought to



the city.

“International education is Victoria’s most significant export – that’s why we’re working to support and attract even more international students,” Cr Reece said.

The council’s innovation and education portfolio lead Cr Andrew Rowse believes that due to uncertainty surrounding future legislation, there was a lot of “stress and anxiety” within the sector.

The University of Melbourne has international appeal due to its high ranking, according to Cr Rowse, who said that if a cap were to be introduced prospective students may choose to study in another country because they would be unable to attend a prominent Australian university.

He also noted that many international students lived within the City of Melbourne, and that for every dollar spent on tuition

fees, international students spent around two dollars in the local economy.

Currently, the City of Melbourne can accommodate up to 22,500 students in purpose-built student accommodation, and since 2017, the council has approved or provided support for 33 student accommodation developments.

Federal MP for Melbourne and Greens leader Adam Bandt said, “Melbourne’s universities are among the most highly regarded in the world, and the international students who attend them make up such an important part of our city’s vibrant, multi-cultural community.”

“Labor must now go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that fully funds universities, tackles insecure work and casualisation, and wipes student debt, making uni and TAFE free.” ●

Planning and Environment Act 1987 MELBOURNE PLANNING SCHEME

Notice of Approval of Amendment Amendment C441melb

The Minister for Planning has approved Amendment C441melb to the *Melbourne Planning Scheme*.

The Amendment comes into operation on the date this notice is published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The Amendment corrects formatting and administrative errors that occurred as part of Amendment C407melb which implemented the *Arden Structure Plan 2022*.

A copy of the Amendment can be inspected, free of charge, at the Department of Transport and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or by contacting 1800 789 386 to arrange a time to view the Amendment. A copy of the Amendment can also be inspected, free of charge, during office hours, at the offices of Melbourne City Council, 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne and on the Council website at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

PEITA TAPPER
Acting Director, State Planning Services
Department of Transport and Planning

Still time to have your say on the Royal Park Master Plan

A collective of local conservation groups are urging people to “have their say” on the Royal Park Master Plan before the community consultation period ends next month.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The Royal Park Master Plan draft was exhibited for community consultation in November last year, and the City of Melbourne is still accepting community feedback until February 14 via Participate Melbourne.

The draft master plan sets out a vision that, once finalised, will guide the future of the park over the next 20 years. It aims to connect the cultural history of the park, care for the environment, and provide recreation and sporting facilities.

However, Friends of Royal Park, the Royal Park Protection Group, and the Parkville Association have joined forces, in what Parkville Association president Rob Moore sees as a last-ditch effort to protect the park from overdevelopment.

Mr Moore remains concerned that Royal Park will no longer be a bush park due to the focus on facilities such as a café in Walmsley House, barbecues, more concrete, and the extension of nature play on



Gatehouse St. “Bush parks are the lungs of the city,” Mr Moore said. “We see this as an important part of Melbourne’s history, servicing the people of inner-city Melbourne.”

According to Mr Moore, there are many parks in Victoria already servicing other areas that could have additional sporting facilities, including Studley Park in Kew, Albert Park in South Melbourne, and Princes Park in Carlton.

“Please read the plan and make an urgent submission to the council,” he said. “We are lobbying hard, so we all retain our wonderful, very special, and intact space – Royal Park.” ●

Police Association Victoria fights to extend function centre’s operating hours

Victoria’s police union is attempting to extend the operating hours and capacity limit of their newly built function centre in East Melbourne, leaving residents concerned that their “peaceful” neighbourhood will be disturbed.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



As part of the redevelopment of The Police Association Victoria’s new headquarters at 70-73 Jolimont St, a palatial rooftop entertaining space boasting an indoor bar, terrace, and barbecue area was built on level 5.

However, the Police Association Victoria’s most recent planning permit application, which would see the operating hours and capacity increased, was rejected by the City of Melbourne in December 2024, and the association is appealing the decision at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

If the appeal is successful, the operating hours of the premises would extend to 1am indoors and 11pm outdoors on Friday and Saturday nights, and up to 320 people would be able to use the space.

However, East Melbourne Group (EMG) president Greg Bisinella told *Inner City News* that neighbouring residents were “extremely concerned” by the proposal,

with the associated noise and traffic disturbing residents in the immediate vicinity of the venue.

Due to the top floor being open to the neighbourhood, Mr Bisinella said it would be very difficult to prevent “noise spillover”.

Mr Bisinella and fellow East Melbourne residents are no strangers to pushing back against planning permits they believe will have an “undesirable” effect on the community.

As reported by *Inner City News* in 2023, the EMG successfully stymied a developer’s plan to redevelop Magnolia Court, a former bed and breakfast venue at 95-101 Powlett St.

The developer sought to turn the premises into a residential hotel and restaurant that could cater to up to 88 patrons.

However, in January of 2023 following a six-day VCAT hearing the year prior, the permit applicant, Powlett St Land Company Pty Ltd, was granted a new permit that reduced the number of patrons and they were limited to being hotel guests.

For the police entertainment space, Mr Bisinella would like to find a middle ground that allows the Police Association Victoria to use its space while not disturbing the residents. He would like to see the capacity decreased and conditions placed on when and who can use the venue.

“There is genuine concern that anything intended for functions will be difficult to manage,” he said. “But I think that we are realistic and understand they are entitled to have something.”

“If the number was closer to 100 and the time was closer to 10 o’clock, it would be



acceptable,” he said.

Inner City News contacted the Police Association Victoria for comment.

Originally founded in 1917, the association has grown considerably over its 100-year lifespan, with a current membership of 18,000, including sworn police officers at any rank, Protective Services Officers (PSOs), police reservists, and police recruits who serve in Victoria Police.

According to the Police Association Victoria’s website, “the new building offers countless benefits for members” including an exclusive members’ lounge, a commemorative memorial and new and expansive training facilities. ●

Available
Now

The best in cosmopolitan retirement living in Carlton, Melbourne

Penthouse 805, operated by Australian Unity offers space and luxury. With refined finishes and premium appliances, this is the comfort you deserve in retirement. A large private balcony for an outdoor barbeque further compliments the 149 square metres of internal living space.

Perfectly balancing a sense of community with personal privacy, Drummond Place offers quality retirement living and stunning shared spaces. An array of premium amenities like a rooftop terrace for outdoor entertaining, gym, private cinema and the Garden Room, are all available for you to enjoy.

Drummond Place Retirement Community
500 Drummond St, Carlton, VIC 3053

Call **0437 456 839** for an appointment.
drummondsales@australianunity.com.au

Australian Unity
Real Wellbeing

“Deepest pockets win”: what does electoral reform for the City of Melbourne look like?

With donations revealed and the city’s new Lord Mayor Nick Reece inaugurated, the electoral dust has just about settled on the new council term for the City of Melbourne.

WORD BY
JON FLEETWOOD



However, after hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations were given to prominent leadership tickets – Team Reece, Team Wood, Team Kouta, and the Liberals – and with the municipality’s voting system coming under increasing scrutiny, preference strategists and councillors, both past and present, are calling for reform.

Cr Reece has publicly acknowledged he is open to the idea, though how or what such reforms would look like is not yet known.

He told *Inner City News* on January 20 that he supported “the reform of campaign finance arrangements for local government and will work with my newly elected fellow councillors and the Victorian Government to achieve this.”

Under the current system, leadership tickets strike preference deals with one another to determine how the votes will flow, and businesses get two votes while residents only get one.

Veteran preference strategist Ray Collins said this inequity prevented a fair and equitable representation of the community and also in effect blocked residents from being elected.

He sees the current system as deeply flawed and said it was in urgent need of change, as it favoured those with the greatest war chest and was not truly representative of ratepayers.

In Mr Collins’ eyes, a return to the ward system – which every other Victorian municipality operates under – would be fairer. He believes that while it doesn’t eliminate the ability for strategists to work the system, it would allow for a more diverse and genuinely representative council to be elected.

“We would have a true local representative and a decent cross-section of the community on council,” he said.

Another point of contention for Mr Collins is the risk that donations from developers and people affiliated with developers pose to democratic decision-making on planning matters.

While councillors must declare a conflict of interest, back-room dealings and logrolling can still occur, according to Mr Collins.

Currently, candidates are required to release details of donations, including sources and amounts, 40 days after the election, but Mr Collins said that real-time disclosure should be introduced so voters are informed of potential vested interests before filling out their ballot paper.

Throughout Lord Mayor Cr Nick Reece’s campaign, he publicly spoke of his self-imposed rule to not accept donations from property developers in the City of Melbourne, nor from tobacco or gaming interests.

However, the election donation registry revealed that Cr Reece had received significant donations from property developers outside the City of Melbourne and from several donors who are linked to developments within the municipality.

Most notably, he received a \$60,000 donation from the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), which has recently had an application to rezone its North Melbourne headquarters considered by the council.

As reported by *The Age*, Cr Reece also accepted a donation from Audi Centre Melbourne two days after voting to discontinue part of Roden St in West Melbourne, which adjoins the business, as part of the

council’s plans to create a new linear park. \$20,000 was also donated by Spring Street Advisory, which operates out of an office on Collins St and offers strategy development and implementation services to property development companies.

Inner City News is not suggesting any of these donations influenced the Lord Mayor’s decision or were improper, only that it raises concerns regarding his campaign pledge with respect to donations from developers.

Former three-term Greens councillor Rohan Leppert believes there needs to be greater transparency surrounding who has donated to a campaign.

According to Mr Leppert, because it was difficult to define a developer in law, there was confusion surrounding who is, and who isn’t, a developer.

Mr Leppert said that he personally defined a developer as someone who has a narrow interest in a company whose primary purpose is to purchase and sell property at a profit.

However, due to donors such as the ETU not looking to profit from a development, there is uncertainty about whether or not they are considered a developer.

“Because the public will assume that a developer is someone who stands to make substantial profits from the development of property that they own, it’s the definition of developer that’s causing all of these problems,” he said.

Additionally, Mr Leppert said that the addresses of companies and their ABNs should be provided so voters can see who is donating to whose campaign, preventing developers from creating alternate business names to lodge donations under.

In NSW, it is unlawful for a person to make a political donation on behalf of a property developer, as well as for a developer to solicit another person to make a political donation. However, Victoria has no such legislation.



Inner City News contacted the Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos for comment but he did not respond.

The state government is currently undertaking consultation for the creation of lobbying reforms that could potentially extend to local government, with legislation slated for October this year.

The reforms come after the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission’s (IBAC) Donations and Lobbying Report recommended that the state’s new regulatory regime for lobbying extend to both state government and local government.

IBAC also recommended that greater obligations be placed on lobbyists to document and publish information about contact with government representatives, “real-time” reporting of donations and that donors should make a declaration outlining any interest in a local government matter that they have.

In addition to the lobbying reform consultation, the state government is considering changes to Victoria’s electoral and political donations system following recommendations from an Electoral Review Expert Panel. ●

‘GORGEOUS VENUE, NOT A BAD SEAT IN THE HOUSE.’

— Jenny B



Find us at Corner Southbank Boulevard and Sturt St, Southbank
MELBOURNERECITALCENTRE.COM.AU

MELBOURNE
RECITAL
CENTRE

Carlton residents and traders debate the future of Lygon St

Continued from page 1.

But Tiamo owner Fab Succi said he didn't agree with many of CRA's suggestions, adding that "Carlton residents and Carlton traders have never really been in touch with each other."

"The two have different opinions on different matters, which is fair enough," Mr Succi said.

"They've never really had to sit down and work for a common goal, and I think there are a few issues that need to be addressed."

While Mr Succi doesn't agree that parklets should be removed to allow for more parking space, as this area in front of Tiamo accounts for most of its outdoor dining, he does agree that parking is a major issue for traders along Lygon St.

"The problem is that the council, without any consultation as far as I know, have removed parking and put more loading zones and five-minute parking," he said.

"In a business district which has a cinema, shops, restaurants – five minutes is not enough. We could possibly lose clientele because of that."

Despite Tiamo's ongoing issues with the condition of the footpath outside its restaurant as previously reported by *Inner City News*, Mr Succi said that the suggestion of bluestone paving for the strip was "rubbish".

"They're talking about spending millions of dollars doing bluestone paving, that's rubbish – just fix what you've got," he said.

The City of Melbourne has allocated \$13 million this financial year to upgrade footpaths across the city, with a focus on replacing asphalt with bluestone in areas like Lygon St.

Work will soon begin on the eastern footpath of Lygon St, between Queensberry and Pelham streets, where bluestone pavers will be installed and the footpath will be expanded at intersections.



▲ An illustration of proposed upgrades to Lygon St
Credit: Peter Sanders (CRA)

The council is also working on improving the design of infrastructure, including outdoor dining areas and parklets, and is consulting with local businesses to shape these plans.

"Local traders play a huge role in the welcoming European vibe of Carlton – and we regularly meet with Carlton Inc. to ensure the needs of traders are being heard," Lord Mayor Nick Reece told *Inner City News*.

Despite some traders pushing back against the ideas put forward by the CRA, Mr Sanders points out that Carlton Inc.

president Sergio Alderuccio has been "very supportive" and "couldn't see any negatives in the proposal".

"The status of what we are suggesting now is really something that's come from discussions we've had with the Carlton Inc., but it hasn't yet been adopted by the group as a whole," he said.

But Mr Succi also sees a "problem" with proposals like reducing Lygon St to one lane in each direction, given the strip's role as a major thoroughfare between the CBD and the freeway.

"Limiting traffic flow will create a bottleneck – it's just common sense," he said.

However, Mr Succi said with a shared desire for change, it was just a matter of uniting and finding common ground.

"We need to find a common goal that would benefit both traders and residents," Mr Succi said.

"We've got to start working together to make a place where people can go enjoy a night out and feel safe in their own backyard. Not just for businesses, but for residents too." ●

Join CNLC for a special fundraising evening

On February 28, 2025, the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) invites you to join us for a fundraising evening filled with delicious food, live entertainment, and community spirit.

WORDS BY
TONY MILNE
CNLC EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Set in the heart of Carlton North, An Evening in the Garden promises to be a night to remember, all while supporting two exciting local projects.

Enjoy an exquisite garden-to-plate menu crafted by the renowned Rumi Restaurant, paired with fine drinks and live entertainment from Inventi Ensemble, a leading force in Australian chamber music, and more. The evening will also feature a captivating art auction, and guest speakers.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will directly support the revitalisation of our community spaces. We're expanding our community garden, creating a vibrant hub for public enjoyment, where people can connect with nature and each other.

Additionally, we are restoring the iconic Tram 776, a 1936 tram, into a classroom and meeting space. This tram will not only serve as a vital resource for education and training but also as a gathering spot for the community to come together.

At CNLC, our mission is clear: to connect people, create opportunities, and challenge disadvantage. From offering literacy

programs that help parents read bedtime stories to their children, to providing training and support for refugees, public housing residents, and people with disabilities, every initiative we undertake fosters empowerment and belonging.

This is your chance to make a tangible difference while indulging in an elegant evening of fun and connection. Tickets are \$100 per person, with all proceeds dedicated to these transformative projects.

Mark your calendars for February 28, 2025, from 5.30pm to 8pm, at 20 Princes St, Carlton North. Together, we can help our community thrive.

For more details, visit our website or follow us on social media. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.



Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something extraordinary! ●

Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre Fundraiser

Save the date

Join us for an evening of celebration and community at our black tie fundraising event

Join us at CNLC

\$100 ticket proceeds to support our work

28 February 2025

20 Princes St Carlton North

5.30 - 8.00PM

TRANSFORM OUR NEW TRAM & GARDEN

Delicious garden-to-plate food
Live entertainment
A special guest speaker
An art auction

All proceeds support CNLC's vital work empowering individuals and strengthening our community

CONTACT US
03 9347 2739

FOR MORE INFORMATION
tony@cnlc.org.au

Parkville community devastated by war memorial vandals

A statue commemorating Parkville residents who died during World War One was defaced just days before Australia Day, leaving the community “shocked” and “confused” by the vile act.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The statue, which has stood near the corner of Royal Parade and The Avenue since 1925, was doused with red paint and anti-colonial messages on January 25, with the words “land back” and “the colony will fall” painted over the names of fallen veterans.

Parkville Association president Rob Moore was shocked by the attack and said that the actions were “inappropriate” and have left many residents extremely upset.

“These were all young people who gave their lives to save Australia,” he said.

The statue is of an Australian soldier carved in Italian marble and is a part of the Parkville War Memorial which is where community members traditionally attend ANZAC day services.

It has been a part of the Parkville community for just shy of 100 years and is dedicated to the memory of soldiers who died during the First World War.

One of the men commemorated is Corporal John Jageurs whose father, Peter, was the mason who crafted the memorial.

On the same night as the Parkville incident, a statue on Queen St of the founder of modern-day Melbourne, John Batman, was also damaged.

At about 2.20am on Saturday, Victoria Police were called following reports that it had been vandalised.



The statue was found to have been dislodged from its plinth and appeared to have been cut in half. A crane was required to remove the statue and transport it to a secure location.

It is unclear if the two statues were defaced by the same people.

A Victoria Police spokesperson told *Inner City News* on January 28 that the investigation into the criminal damage incident remained ongoing. ●

"Opportunity to reset": Council to stage a 2050 summit for Melbourne

As the curtains drew to a close at Town Hall during the final meeting of 2024, the City of Melbourne endorsed the creation and delivery of a summit that will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Melbourne.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The 2050 Summit, set to be held at Melbourne Town Hall, will provide a forum for councillors to engage directly with the community and Melbourne’s “best” and “brightest” to determine a long-term vision for the city through to 2050.

It’s expected that more than 1000 participants, including residents, community groups, and businesses, will contribute their input on how the city should continue to grow.

At the December 10 council meeting Lord Mayor Nick Reece stated that the summit would help the council set specific goals for the city and establish a roadmap to achieve them.

He believes this is an opportunity to bring Melbourne “together” and “unite” the city through a collective vision.

Council officers are currently working on the logistics and costings for the summit and will present a report detailing their findings at a Future Melbourne Committee



meeting in February 2025.

Speaking at the December 10 meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said, “what an exciting time to be a Melburnian and what a great time for our city.”

“It’s an opportunity to reset, to seize the opportunities we have, and to confront our challenges,” Cr Campbell said. “I’ve often said that some of the best ideas for our city come from outside this place, and this is very much in that spirit.”

Cr Dr Olivia Ball believes it is a great opportunity for the city to create a vision that reflects the community in all of its diversity. ●

A journey to oneself: *EQUALS* to feature at Midsumma

As a part of the annual Midsumma festival, a production more than two years in the making *EQUALS* by Cynda Beare invites locals to a duologue about identity issues, self-love and trying to understand the big city life.

WORDS BY
ANNA BOLTEN



Two young people moved from a small town in regional North Queensland to the big city of Naarm (Melbourne). What does that feel like?

Together, they try to find out how to survive being locked in a share house bathroom at a bad party.

“It is a lot about very universal concerns that young people have in those kinds of situations,” writer and director Cynda Beare said.

Dating, love, racism, transgender experiences, re-evaluation of who you are will all be discussed.

What the two protagonists find out exactly can be discovered by experiencing the play presented from January 27 to February 2 daily from 9pm to 10pm at Carlton’s The Motley Bauhaus.

The production is a short comedy carrying its audience with open honesty, brutal sarcasm, and queer black humour.

“It needed to be funny,” Cynda told *Inner City News*.



“If it was not a comedy, it would be a sad, sad play and nobody wants to watch a sad, sad play.”

Creating this play took months according to Cynda, who graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Theatre) at Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and started writing it two years ago just for themselves.

Cynda said that an initial run of a much shorter version of the play was previously performed at the *MUSE* Festival.

“It was really popular, which is why we have extended it.”

The two actresses, Annabel Hunter and

Elistera Biernoff-Glies, both Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) graduates at VCA, have been part of this play from the beginning.

“I was writing the characters, and I knew those two people could do that,” Cynda said. “And, since they have been a part of it throughout the whole development, the characters became very them.”

“I am a very chill director. I always want to hear the objective opinions of other people. And Annabel and Ellie have great chemistry on stage. A lot of the time, what I wrote was not meant to be funny, but then they said it, and I was like, ‘this is actually funny’.”

Cynda said it was “the project that I am the proudest of in the entire world.”

“It is not just because of what I have done for it, but for the team involved and the love that has been poured into this,” adding that it was important for everyone to see, especially young queer people who had just moved to Naarm and had no idea what was going on “just like I was.”

Ticket prices for *EQUALS* range from \$15 to \$24. A discounted ticket is available for transgender audience members. ●

Image: by Tiah Bullock.

“It costs nothing to be kind”: Carlton local making a difference, one vacuum at a time

Tori is the epitome of a great neighbour, utilising her niche interest and skills in vacuum maintenance to help the community she’s called home for 17 years.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



From a young age, Tori was fascinated by mechanics. But it was the principle that she grew up with of, “If it’s broke, you fix it” that inspired her latest venture.

“It started with a friend who asked me, knowing that I fix a lot of things, if I could fix their vacuum,” Tori said.

“I really enjoyed fixing it for her. It was nice to save her money and get it repaired so that she could use it.”

The Carlton local soon began rescuing “strays” she found on the street – giving new life to vacuums people had discarded, thinking they were beyond repair.

“Ninety-nine per cent of the time I could fix them. Then I had all these vacuums, so I found organisations that were happy to take them,” Tori told *Inner City News*.

“Obviously I don’t have any qualifications, so I don’t fix plug-in vacuums. But it’s nice to be able

to repurpose them and give them to different organisations and families.”

When Godfreys, Australia’s leading vacuum cleaner retailer, closed its doors last year, Tori realised there was a larger demand for vacuum repairs than just her circle of friends and stray finds.

After posting a few times on local Carlton Facebook groups, she discovered that her hobby could save a lot of people time and money – leading her to offer free vacuum repair services to her neighbours.

“The response was crazy – it seems to be a really big thing that people have busted vacuums or underperforming vacuums,” Tori said.

“I finish work and usually fix one or two vacuums, and on my days off I might do two or three. I still have my casual downtime as my friends always worry I do too much, but I actually enjoy doing it.”

“I’ve done so many, I can usually do it in about 20 minutes. It’s like a puzzle – if you do the same one over and over again, you just know where everything is.”

One of Tori’s most memorable moments came when a woman dropped off her vacuum and asked if she could stay and watch the repair.

“We just sat on my kitchen floor and she watched me fix it. It was quite nice to see someone appreciate the little thing you’re doing,” she said.

And then there was the time she had to fix a foreign vacuum that spoke to her in Chinese ...

“I had someone translate the Chinese for me so I could figure out the error code, and then I could order the missing part. I had to pull the whole thing apart without any instructions because everything was in Chinese – it was really fun doing that one,” Tori said.

“Most people are just really happy getting a new vacuum back, and then you get the nice message after saying, ‘It’s amazing, it’s like brand new again.’”

Long before she started fixing vacuums, Tori was already a familiar face in the Carlton community.

She’s lived in the same rental since moving to Melbourne from Gippsland for university 17 years



ago, and you’ll often find her walking the streets with her “best friend in the whole world” – her beloved Maltese Bichon, Lady.

“I have the most amazing landlady, she’s extremely kind and generous. When I see stories about dodgy landlords, I just think, ‘This woman needs to give all of them a lesson.’”

“She’s such a good person and I’m extremely blessed to have her,

so I’m not moving anytime soon,” Tori said.

“When you see people doing nice things, it makes you feel good about humanity – that’s how I feel when I see people offering help and services.”

“Even though there’s so much going on in the world and it can be so depressing at times, these little sparks of kindness remind you that there’s still some good out there.” ●

EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

Another exciting year ahead in East Melbourne

What does it take to create one of the world’s most liveable suburbs? A passionate and dedicated team which cares about community and heritage.

WORDS BY
JESSICA AGOSTON CLEARY

At the time of writing, the Australian Open has just wrapped up a brilliant two weeks of record-breaking tennis. With more than 1.2 million people streaming into Melbourne Park, the AO has lived up to its reputation as a premier global sporting event.

What does tennis and the AO have to do with East Melbourne and the East Melbourne Group (EMG)?

Technically, nothing. However, East Melbourne’s adjacency to the MCG and Jolimont Station means that over the past two weeks, thousands of tourists from across the country and the globe have alighted in East Melbourne, experiencing a little of what residents know makes the suburb not only livable but uniquely special.

They’ve had the delight of strolling down leafy tree-lined streets,



past rows of heritage-listed Victorian terrace houses, including Bishops Court, one of the oldest properties in East Melbourne and the official residence of the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne since 1853.

They’ve stopped for a morning coffee and provisions at the East Melbourne General Store, one of the last remaining milk bars in

Melbourne. And, they’ve possibly even been stopped by Frank, the uber-friendly local cat on Powlett St who won’t let anyone pass by without giving him a scratch behind his ears, or better yet, a belly rub.

Fostering a village-like atmosphere in an urban inner-city suburb as well as protecting and preserving its architectural history and

integrity for residents and tourists alike to delight in doesn’t happen by accident. It takes the combined efforts of a small group of passionate community volunteers.

Founded in 1954, the EMG is Victoria’s oldest community residents’ group. From its inception, the purpose of the EMG has been – and continues to be – to protect, improve and enhance one of Melbourne’s most iconic suburbs.

Over the past 70 years, the architectural landscape of Melbourne has changed rapidly; so too has the pace of life and subsequent demands on infrastructure. Far clinging to the past and preserving heritage for the sake of it, the EMG proactively engages with the City of Melbourne, the National Trust, Heritage Victoria, and political representatives.

As a result of its continuing efforts, it has been possible to strike a harmonious balance between growth and progress, and the preservation of the Instagram-worthy aesthetic fabric of East Melbourne.

The protection of heritage architecture is just one aspect of what the EMG advocates for. It takes far more than rows of ornate balconies and a skyline of 150-year-old red brick chimneys to create a place that makes you feel like you’ve stepped back in time to an era when you knew

your neighbour’s name and could knock on their door for a cup of sugar.

A significant part of the work the volunteers who make up the EMG committee do is supporting and organising community events.

In December, together with the East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN), EMG hosted a Christmas market and fundraising sausage sizzle at the East Melbourne Library, and the Community Christmas picnic at Bishops Court, where the jolly man in a big red suit made a special appearance with the help of the Melbourne firefighters.

The 2025 social calendar is looking even more impressive than last year’s, when there was at least one community event a month. In March the EMG will host its annual general meeting, as well as a special International Women’s Day speaker event.

Trivia night will be back later in the year, as will a series of delicious dining events at local hidden gems. The annual Black Tie gala fundraiser returns in October, and planning is under way for seasonally themed free family friendly events for Easter and Halloween.

To find out more about the EMG and upcoming community events in East Melbourne:

emg.org.au ●



For 14 years, from 1940 to 1954, the streets of Melbourne and its inner northern suburbs had double-decker buses operating along them.

Interestingly, these buses were operated by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board (M&MTB) and carried the same green and cream colour scheme as Melbourne’s trams.

Why was the Tramways Board operating buses? The reason was that this was a transition period in which Melbourne was changing over from a cable tram system to electric trams.

Cable tram routes began to be closed in 1925 and the last one ceased operating in 1940. When a cable tram route was closed, it was usually replaced soon afterwards by an electric tram service. But on some routes

for various reasons the cable trams were replaced by buses instead.

For example, when the Rathdowne St cable tram route in Carlton ceased operating in 1936, it was replaced by an M&MTB bus service. The last electric tram routes were not completed until the mid 1950s.

Most of the M&MTB buses used on former cable tram routes were single-deckers, but on some routes that were heavily patronized, a double-decker bus was used instead.

This occurred on two routes that ran along Bourke St – one from the city to Northcote via Smith St, Queens Parade and High St (present day tram route 86), and one that ran along Nicholson St to East Brunswick (present day tram route 96).

These were among the last of the cable trams routes to be closed. They were replaced by double-decker bus services, which began operating in October 1940 and ran until the routes were finally electrified in the mid-1950s.



The double-deckers were however not particularly popular with passengers. People did not like having to climb up and down the stairs, especially if their journey was short or they had limited physical ability.

The buses carried fewer people than electric trams and were really too small to handle peak-period passenger numbers. This led to over-crowded conditions and

passenger dissatisfaction.

It was not until March 1954 that work began on converting these two Bourke St bus routes to electric tramways. The Northcote tram route was completed in June 1955 and the East Brunswick route in April 1956.

The double-decker buses that were retired from these routes were by this stage completely worn out, each having travelled an average of 430,000 miles (690,000 kilometres) during its years of operation. They were sold off by the M&MTB, and many ended up as farm trucks, sheds or extra accommodation at holiday homes. ●

Jeff Atkinson
PRESIDENT

JEFFANN@BIGPOND.NET.AU



STATE MP

Metro Tunnel blowout costing Victorians

Initially estimated at costing \$11 billion, the Metro Tunnel project has now blown out to \$15.5 billion, in yet another clear case of Labor’s financial mismanagement.

WORDS BY
EVAN MULHOLLAND



Slated for completion by 2025, however recent reports have revealed that the project faces up to a 12-month delay in the construction of the final stations, with Labor desperate to meet its promise to have trains operational by the end of 2025.

Like other major projects under this Labor government, the Metro Tunnel has not been immune from an array of controversies. In 2023, it was revealed that taxpayers were being rorted for unfilled “ghost shifts” on major project sites including on the Metro Tunnel.

Then last year the Metro Tunnel was the centre of controversy again as former CFMEU boss John Setka illegally accessed Metro Tunnel worksites to rally against the government after his rightful resignation from the union.

These came at a time where further allegations of thuggery, bullying and intimidation came out against the CFMEU across

multiple “Big Build” sites which the Federal Court ultimately characterised as having fostered a culture of “thuggish assertion of control”.

As the Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region, I have witnessed how my own community has been let down by the Allan Labor Government thanks to its fiscal mismanagement and cost blowouts on the Metro Tunnel.

Patrons of the Upfield and Craigieburn lines were left disappointed as Labor quietly dropped budget cuts for planned frequency upgrades that were meant to be delivered as part of the project.

A train turn-back on the Upfield line at Gowrie needed to solve a single-track bottleneck that limits peak hour trains to one every 15 minutes and a turn-back and platform extension at Essendon needed to run more trains on the Craigieburn line have been axed as the government struggles to reign in the ballooning cost of this project.

Commuters who rely on these lines are left without the promised improvements, facing continued overcrowding and unreliable services.

It was also recently confirmed that five

out of six Melbourne trains will be unable to use the new Metro Tunnel. Only this Labor Government could spend up to \$15 billion on a new rail tunnel which can’t be used by 85 per cent of Melbourne’s trains.

In contrast, the recent opening of Sydney’s new metro system was met with widespread acclaim, attributed to effective planning, budget adherence, and timely delivery.

Melbourne’s experience starkly differs, with cost overruns and delays robbing communities of much needed investments and infrastructure upgrades. And who was the Minister responsible? Premier Jacinta Allan who has displayed the same level of competence as when she was Minister responsible for the Commonwealth Games.

Ultimately Labor’s inability to manage money has robbed commuters of the benefits the Metro Tunnel was meant to deliver. If Jacinta Allan was hoping for the same euphoric reaction to the Sydney Metro, I doubt voters in the northern suburbs will be as forgiving.

Evan Mulholland is the Liberal MP for the Northern Metropolitan Region and new Shadow Minister for Major Projects. ●

MELBOURNE ZOO



New baboon turning heads

Melbourne Zoo has welcomed a new baboon to its 16-strong troop. Her name is Kasmut – Kas to her keepers – she is 11 years old, and she's turning heads, not just of visitors but also of the young males in the troop.

Introducing new animals is a careful process, with much planning to ensure they get along. Keepers often play matchmaker, hoping some animals will pair up. They thought Kas would be the perfect match for Melako, one of the younger males who needs females to join his group.

Young male baboons form "harems" – their squad of females and future breeding partners. This behaviour is typical of Hamadryas baboons, a species native to the horn of Africa and parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

In the wild, harems are the building blocks of their highly structured society, which also includes larger social units called clans, bands, and troops. These complex social systems help baboons cooperate to find food, defend against predators, and navigate challenging environments.

Keepers hoped Kas might be the founding member of Melako's harem. However, during the slow introduction period, it became clear that Kas was not interested in her suggested beau.

Enter Azizi. Despite having only half a tail, he turned Kas's head.

"It quickly became apparent that Azizi

and Kas were going to pair up – they spent a lot of time hanging out together at the mesh and Perspex while she was in quarantine. As soon as they were introduced, she made it clear he was her choice," primate keeper at Melbourne Zoo John Ciorciari explained.

Kas showed her preference by sticking close to Azizi and showering him with attention, which for baboons means lots of intense mutual grooming. Grooming is a cornerstone of Hamadryas baboon social life, serving not only to bond but also to reduce stress and maintain hygiene.

Hamadryas baboons are known for their striking appearance, with males sporting flowing silvery-white manes and females displaying vibrant, swollen red bottoms when in heat. These physical traits play a key role in attracting mates.

"Females are looking for a big red bum. The bigger the bum, the better the male," John said.

Female baboons also use their behinds as a signal to potential partners, and males rely on their protective instincts and social skills to maintain their harems.

Kas's story provides a fascinating glimpse into the social lives of Hamadryas baboons and highlights the zoo's dedication to creating environments where animals can form natural bonds. As Kas and Azizi's relationship unfolds, it's a reminder of the complexity and charm of these intelligent primates.

Visitors and members can watch these antics play out by visiting Melbourne Zoo as well as enjoying water play, tigers, lions, gorillas, reptiles and birds – kids under 16 go free during Victorian school holidays and at weekends. ●

Pet's Corner



Energetic poodle has her own agenda

Local poodle Rin is "very energetic, especially when she is off to the ball," according to her owner Amelia, and her energy is especially surprising given she is already 10 years old.

**WORDS BY
ANNA BOLTEN**

Amelia told *Inner City News* that Carlton Gardens was Rin's backyard.

"We live very close over in Rathdowne St; that is why we are here at least twice a day," Amelia said, who added that she enjoyed living near the park.

"I love how many beautiful trees there are. It is so shady, and because I walk here every day, I get to see the seasons changing the leaves," she said.

"And I love how many people use it as well, and obviously looking at the beautiful exhibition building is pretty magical, too."

But the pair will often visit off-leash dog parks elsewhere in the area "because Rin is crazy about

the ball as soon as you get it out. Then, she got no interest in any other person or dog."

According to Amelia, it's Rin's energy and attitude make her stand out.

"We only recently found out that she is already 10 years' old, six months older than we thought, and her birthday is the same as my nan's," Amelia said.

"She was adopted by us from a breeder, who did not want her anymore, but she never told us Rin's real age until my mum asked her two weeks ago."

Amelia's family had a lot of dogs in the past, but Rin is the first she has owned as an adult since the COVID pandemic.

"As soon as they said you can work from home, I was like, 'Great, we're getting a dog!'" Amelia said, describing her as cuddly and very self-assured – a trait she explained you could sense in her brown eyes.

"If she is grumpy, because you will not give her a treat or she thinks it is dinner time and it isn't, you can really tell that she disagrees," Amelia explained, adding that Rin loved to wake her every morning as soon as the sun came up by jumping in the bed.

"She definitely has her own agenda." ●



CARLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Don't blame us... we're just the voters!

The dust won't settle on the City of Melbourne election until there is a review of the electoral provisions of the *City of Melbourne Act* and a limit placed on campaign funding together with real time disclosure of the amount and source of the funds.

**WORDS BY
MARTIN BRENNAN – VICE PRESIDENT**



The unsuccessful teams spent around \$1.5 million and resulted in the election of candidates who were members of seven unsuccessful teams. Their policies are already in the too hard or not to be mentioned basket.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and his team now carry the potential conflict of interest baggage as a consequence of some of their

campaign donors having property interests in the City of Melbourne.

We won't have long to wait before they'll have to declare a conflict of interest and vacate the council chamber. Watch this chamber space!

There is no doubt given the media commentary during the election campaign that the electoral provisions and campaign funding embarrassed not only us voters but also Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor team candidates.

Post the election the call for a review of the electoral provisions that has delivered a compromised council is louder.

The Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) will call for a review of the *City of Melbourne Act* and lobby the council to adopt a deliberative democracy approach and establish a People's Assembly to undertake the process.

Deliberative democracy is increasingly adopted by cities as a participatory

response to the need to deal with complex and ingrained issues that impact on their governance.

The City of Melbourne has experience in deliberative democracy most recently with a People's Panel on affordable housing. Deliberative processes are a requirement of the Local Government Act and the council's "Community Engagement Policy".

The People's Assembly comprising around 50 participants would be drawn from the city's resident and business community. The Assembly would review the current Act and develop a set of recommendations that address the failings of the current electoral provisions.

Voters are burdened with the two to one franchise in favour of non-resident property owners and businesses, postal voting only, no wards and the election of the popular election of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor that inhibits the role and scrutiny of the remaining nine councillors. ●



QUESTION:
What do you do to cope with the heat?

Faces of the Inner City



Alex and Caley
We go in the city with its air-conditioned shops or to the cinema.



Britney
I bring a hat and stay somewhere in the shade.



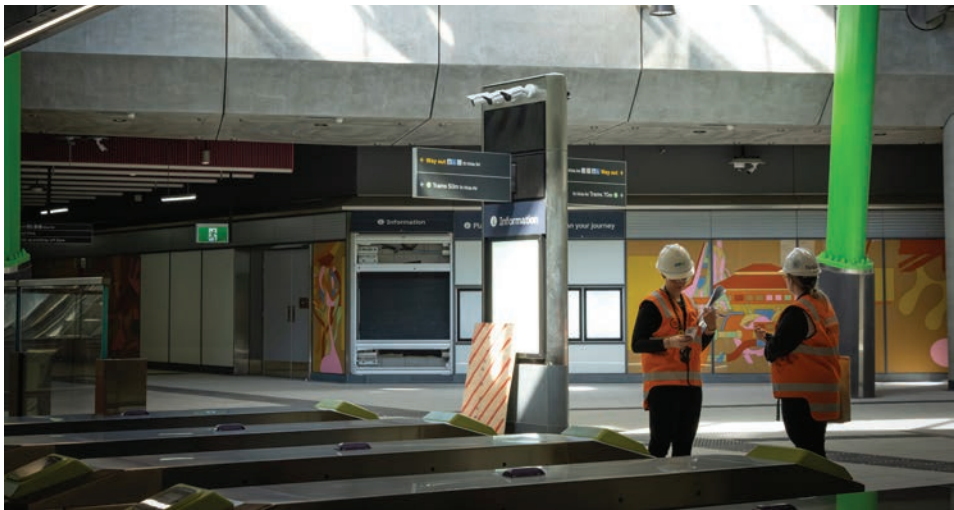
Hugh
I take a wet t-shirt every few hours and put it on my body because my air-conditioner is broken.



Lee (and Sini)
We grab a picnic rug and have a picnic in the park or just rest here for a while.



METRO TUNNEL



The Metro Tunnel completes its biggest trial yet

The Metro Tunnel has completed its most significant “dress rehearsal” yet – trains making more than 2600 trips across 10 days as part of trial operations.

Trains travelled more than 35,000 kilometres, roughly the length from Melbourne to London and back, as part of the work in early January in preparation for opening later this year.

Trains travelled at a frequency of between eight and 12 per hour between Hawksburn and West Footscray on the Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via the new twin nine-kilometre tunnels.

Train frequency is expected to increase in the coming months as operators refine the new technology inside the tunnels and stations.

It’s all part of the project’s latest phase to make sure the complex systems and technology are working as designed, and all the necessary processes and procedures are in place for when passenger services begin.

The 10-day blitz was also an opportunity for Metro Trains staff to become more familiar with the project, with another 46 train drivers trained to operate the new high-capacity Metro Trains – taking the total number of trained drivers to around 200. Trial operations will continue to test

the system’s staff and drivers through exercises based on real-life scenarios that focus on the use and operation of the tunnel.

The team will run through more than 100 exercises to demonstrate the project’s complex systems and technology are working as designed.

Some exercises will be rehearsed multiple times over many months to make sure all the necessary processes and procedures are in place for staff ahead of passenger services in 2025.

Activities will range from the fundamentals – such as manual opening and closing of the platform screen doors in the event of a failure – to intruder detection and mass station and train evacuation exercises.

Work on Town Hall and State Library stations in the CBD is progressing at pace, and testing and trial operations will continue in the coming months to ensure the tunnel is safe and reliable.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade of Melbourne’s train network since the City Loop opened in 1981, which will double the size of Melbourne’s underground rail network as we move towards becoming Australia’s biggest city.

It will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via a new tunnel and five new stations under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, giving passengers new connections and more choice. ●

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year, Parkvillians! Here’s to a very safe year

It’s hard to believe but here we are in 2025! This year Parkville Association’s focus has to be on safety in our neighbourhood. We have had promises over the years and now we need to see action.

Issues outstanding with various authorities include ...

Rat running in Parkville

We were promised by the City of Melbourne in 2023 that by early 2024 there would be a plan to alleviate “rat running” issues and safety measures implemented.

While conversations took place early last year there has been no action or follow-up.

Gatehouse St is worse than ever with constant traffic jams and even with the reopening of Grattan St the traffic has not disappeared.

At our annual general meeting in 2020 then Lord Mayor Sally Capp canvassed 30kph speed limits for Parkville. Allowing for COVID interruption we have been told we are looking at it, let’s do it!

The CBD has this measure in certain parts. It would undoubtedly improve safety in Parkville, so we believe it’s time lower the limits!

Royal Parade crossing at Morrah St

This old chestnut has been raised constantly with Department of Transport. The lights are not synced and desperately slow to change.

As a result, students run across to catch trams and bicycles mix with pedestrians. We fear there will be a fatality one day.

This has been raised with senior management at Vic Roads but to NO response! Trams often have issues with cars not stopping when discharging passengers, which is not on. Royal Parade needs to have a 40kph limit.

Separation strips on Royal Parade

These were damaged in November and reported to senior management at the Department of Transport. Again, to no response.

Cars fill the centre lane not allowing vehicles to exit Degraives St and, more importantly, trams are delayed.

It amazes me that this latter issue has



not been addressed by Public Transport Victoria (PTV).

The traffic lane from College Crescent to Royal Parade has ground markings but cars often ignore them and speed straight onto Royal Parade. Again, a serious accident waiting to happen.

The Royal Parade and The Avenue junction

Cars speed off Royal Parade across this junction at what is a heavily used footpath. We need a speed hump in the corner.

We are not an area where we complain constantly but one where we look after our residents. We have older, less mobile residents and many children walking to University High or North Melbourne Primary School. We need to look after our families.

And finally, just a reminder to all that the Royal Park Masterplan is still online for review and comments and the deadline is rapidly approaching.

Thanks to all who have responded, we need all residents to participate as other lobbies are pushing hard. Please have your say! ●

Rob Moore

PRESIDENT
PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION



Public housing resident stories

The City of Melbourne has provided me with the resources to record podcasts and videos of residents living with the threat of eviction under the state government's plans to demolish all 44 high-rise public housing buildings across metropolitan Melbourne.

3CR has also committed resources to the project and will broadcast their stories.

Thousands of residents are living in fear, not knowing what will happen to them under the government's plan.

Many are vision impaired, aged and live with disabilities. Their current neighbourhoods are familiar to them. They have networks of friends and support services that will be shattered with eviction. Some have already been relocated from other public housing demolitions and are refusing to move again.

Victorian Supreme Court action and the Parliamentary inquiry

Residents are pressing on with their class action on the abuse of their human rights by not being consulted prior to the government's decision. Go to Inner Melbourne Community Legal's website at imcl.org.au/class-action. You can attend hearings if you want to.

The Court is now considering whether to force Homes Victoria to release all the internal documents that supported the demolition decision.

Parliament's Legislative Council (LC) has been refused the documents. Only the titles of the documents have been made public. They include building status reports and estimates of the increase in dwellings each redevelopment could deliver.

The government has mocked the LC with this refusal. The LC is an essential part of democratic, open government as a house of review of government decisions.

In response, LC is pressing on with its own inquiry.

Go to this link: parliament.vic.gov.au/publichousingtowers.

Its first information session will be on Monday, February 17, 4pm to 6pm at the Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston St, Carlton.

Heritage status of towers and who shrunk their accommodation capacity?

Last year Homes Victoria took the step of seeking a heritage exclusion order for the two empty towers at Elgin and Nicholson streets in Carlton. This happened in response to someone who grew up in one of the towers saying he would pursue a preservation order.

An exclusion was secured but the decision revealed very interesting facts, including the original accommodation capacity of the original 47 towers – three have been demolished.

The report says that when completed, they could accommodate 5439 families, 2391 individuals or around 24,000 people (pages 13,14; Victorian Heritage Executive Director Report, RX1011, September 5, 2024).

Taking out the numbers involved in the three already demolished towers, we are talking about homes for up to 22,000 adults

and children!

When the demolition decision was announced it was stated that there were only 10,000 residents and that redevelopment would deliver housing for 30,000 of which two thirds would live in full market rent and fake affordable – 90 per cent of market rent housing.

The discrepancy is extraordinary and shows very clearly that a retain, repair and reinvest plan for the towers would deliver more public housing at less cost than community housing providers managing dwellings for just 11,000 residents under the government's plan.

Prepared with the assistance of the Save Public Housing Collective. ●

Cory Memery

CITY OF MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020



EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK



Supporting the East Melbourne community again in 2025

The East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) aims to create a thriving and inclusive community and provide a range of enjoyable health and wellbeing activities for people of all ages.

The 2025 Health & Wellbeing Program of activities is up and running – and it's not too late to join if you're interested.

Activities include:

Monday: Mindful Mat Pilates (7.15am); Chair Yoga (10.30am); Gentle Yoga: (5.30pm); Book Group (7pm)

Tuesday: Mindful Mat Pilates (7.15am); Walking Group (8.30am); Pilates (9am); Book Group (12noon); Dadfit (7pm); Community Choir (7pm)

Wednesday: Mindful Mat Pilates (7.15am)

Thursday: Pilates (9am and 10.30am); Ukulele (3pm);

Friday: Gentle Exercise (9.30am); Social Morning Coffee & Guest Speaker Series (10.30am – monthly); Mindful Mat Pilates (11am)

Rotating Days: Intergenerational Activities (with kindergarten children and seniors), 10am (monthly)

For further information contact Sue and Ann-Maree via email: emnn3002@gmail.com

Join the East Melbourne Community Choir in 2025!

The East Melbourne Community Choir, established in 2023, is seeking a new choir director to lead, inspire and nurture community spirit through the power of music.

This is a paid position and the leader will be supported by a pianist and choir administrator.

The choir is an un-auditioned, diverse and welcoming group, with a range of musical experience from beginners to experienced singers. The choir sings an eclectic repertoire of music including musicals, pop, folk and classical in two- and three-part harmony as well as rounds and some unison.

It has become a place of connection, learning and shared joy in music. New members are always welcome.

Now, we are looking for a leader who can inspire and lead us in the future.

Rehearsals take place each Tuesday (during school term), 7pm to 8.30pm each week.

Venue: Unitarian Church, 110 Grey St, East Melbourne.

Membership: 30-50 members.

For more information: contact choir administrator Ann-Maree Eckersley via email emnn3002@gmail.com or mobile 0417 173 818. ●

CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE



Stay cool at CNLC this summer!

As the temperatures rise, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) is proud to announce that we'll be a designated Cool Place this summer, thanks to funding from the City of Melbourne's Community Cool Places Grant.

WORDS BY
TONY MILNE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

During a Heat Emergency, declared by the state government when two or more consecutive days of extreme heat are forecast, we'll extend our hours to provide a welcoming, cool environment for the community.

To help keep Carlton cool this summer, CNLC will extend its hours during Heat Emergencies. On weekdays, the centre will stay open until 7pm, and on weekends, it will welcome visitors from 3pm to 7 pm.

When temperatures soar, visitors can enjoy a range of cooling comforts. Cold water, refreshing ice blocks, and slices of

fresh watermelon will be available to help everyone beat the heat.

The air-conditioned space will also feature relaxing activities, such as movies and board games, offering a comfortable environment to unwind and escape the heat.

We're also offering limited taxi van services for residents of the public housing towers to ensure everyone can access our Cool Place safely. Check our social media for updates on when CNLC will activate these services.

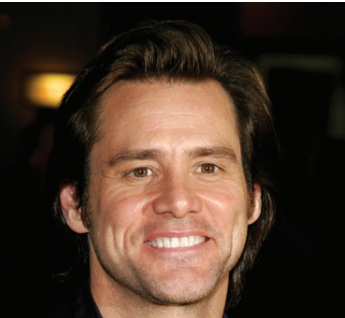
Why is this initiative so important? Heat can pose serious health risks, particularly for vulnerable groups such as young children, older adults, people with pre-existing health conditions, and those with disabilities.

With more frequent and intense heatwaves predicted, having a safe, cool space to retreat to can be lifesaving.

We invite everyone to stay cool, connect with the community, and prioritise your health during Melbourne's hottest days. Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on heat emergencies and when CNLC will be open late.

Let's work together to make this summer safer and more comfortable for all. We look forward to welcoming you at CNLC! ●

Quiz



- 1. The biggest yacht race in Australia is the Sydney to where?
- 2. What device is used by musicians to practice playing to a regular pulse?
- 3. Which local club was one of the seven founding members of the Australian Football League in 1896?
- 4. Author R. F. Kuang released what popular literary satire in 2023?
- 5. How many carats of gold leaf were originally used to decorate Parliament House?
- 6. The Barossa Valley is in which Australian state or territory?
- 7. Who designed the building of Melbourne Museum in Carlton Gardens?
- 8. What are the surnames of Jim Carrey's (pictured) famous characters Ace and Truman?
- 9. Andouille, kielbasa and chorizo are all types of what?
- 10. How many artefacts are housed in the Fire Services Museum of Victoria?
- 11. What milestone did the Parkville Tennis Club celebrate last year?
- 12. Who is Carlton's local branch manager at NAB?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Hobart 2. Metronome 3. Carlton Blues 4. Yellowface 5. 24 6. South Australia 7. Denton Corker Marshall 8. Ventura and Burbank 9. Sausage 10. More than 10,000 11. 120th anniversary 12. Scott Balderson

5x5

No. 309

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

S		I		E
	A		E	
A		I		G
	H		S	
S		R		S

SOLUTIONS

SMITE, PACED, ACING, THESE, SORES

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD
PAGEMASTERS.COM

February, 2025

Sudoku

No. 044

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

	7	3				6		1
		1	2	6		4		
			8				5	2
	9			8	2			
8			7		5			6
			9	3			1	
4	2				7			
		8		2	6	9		
3		5				1	2	

HARD

8		6	3			4	2	
	5							6
		7		4	8			
	7	3			6			
			9		4			
			7			8	1	
			4	6		9		
7								5
	6	5			7	1		8

SOLUTIONS

EASY

7	2	1	8	6	4	5	9	3
5	4	6	9	2	3	8	1	7
3	9	8	7	5	1	6	2	4
8	1	1	8	6	2	5	9	
9	6	2	5	1	1	4	7	3
3	3	4	2	2	8	9	7	6
2	5	3	5	8	9	7	4	1
6	1	2	2	8	6	4	3	5
4	7	1	3	5	2	7	8	6
8	1	6	1	7	2	2	3	8
2	7	3	5	4	4	6	9	8
1	8	6	1	4	7	2	5	3

HARD

8	3	1	9	1	1	6	9	5	6	9	4
7	1	1	3	8	2	2	6	7	4	5	4
2	7	7	6	5	9	4	1	4	8	3	3
6	1	1	3	3	2	7	2	1	6	4	9
5	2	7	4	1	1	4	6	8	6	8	2
3	9	7	4	1	1	4	7	6	8	2	2
6	4	2	2	9	8	5	3	5	3	1	7
1	6	5	1	7	4	8	5	7	3	2	3
2	3	4	1	7	2	2	3	8	3	8	6
5	8	4	1	7	2	2	3	8	3	8	6
6	1	8	6	1	4	2	7	9	5	3	8
1	8	1	6	9	5	3	6	8	1	9	8

Wordfind

Theme: Hats

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

H	E	L	M	E	T	C	K	P	T	T
E	E	R	T	P	O	O	T	O	O	E
P	I	E	A	I	R	W	I	R	P	N
Y	B	T	H	P	E	B	T	K	H	N
B	O	A	N	E	R	O	F	P	A	O
L	W	O	U	V	B	Y	E	I	T	B
I	L	B	S	O	M	E	R	E	C	T
R	E	N	G	T	O	Y	A	A	O	O
T	R	U	R	S	S	H	P	N	E	Q
T	R	U	C	K	E	R	A	D	I	U
A	R	O	D	E	F	W	A	R	M	E

- BEANIE

BOATER

BONNET

BOWLER

CAP

COWBOY

FEDORA

HELMET

PORK PIE
- SOMBRERO

STOVEPIPE

SUNHAT

TITFER

TOP HAT

TOQUE

TRILBY

TRUCKER

Secret message: Keeping your head warm

Crossword

No. 044

ACROSS

- 1 Cries out (8)
- 5 Baltic country (6)
- 10 Erect (5)
- 11 Place in new arrangement (9)
- 12 Slavic language (7)
- 13 Musician (7)
- 14 Enslave (9)
- 17 Unadorned (4)
- 19 Sulk (4)
- 20 Assertion (9)
- 24 Relating to the stars (7)
- 25 Second thoughts (7)
- 27 Guesser (9)
- 28 Examine (5)
- 29 Oppose (6)
- 30 Initiations (8)

DOWN

- 1 Otic membrane (7)

2 Winds (5)

3 Spirit to stimulate appetite (8)

4 Legal counsel right (7)

6 Antenna (6)

7 Clear of blame (9)
- 8 Warned (7)

9 Chatterbox (6)

15 Sickens (9)

16 Explosive (1,1,1)

18 Broken down (8)

19 French bacteriologist (7)

20 Elf (6)

21 European country (7)

- 22 Missing digits (7)

23 Fastens (6)

26 Religious (5)

SOLUTION

S	W	S	I	L	D	V	G	L	S	I	S	E	R
S	N	I	L	I	E	A	D	E	N				
E	B	O	R	D	H	O	L	V	W	I	L	S	E
T	I	E	L	I	V	V	I						
E	L	D	N	H	O	S	H	V	E	L	S		
O		O	N	D	O	S	V						
I	N	E	W	E	L	V	I	S		I	N	O	D
I													
G	L	V	E										
E													
I	S	I	N	V	I	D	N	V	I	S	S	N	
R													
E	G	N	I	D	V	E	R	T					
E	G	N	I	D	V	E	R	T					
T	I	E	W	I	D	O	V						
V	I	A	I	V	L	S	W	I	L	D	O	V	

Codeword

No. 044

23	21	20	10	21		19		O	2	5	20	10	20
13		15		13		O			5		15		5
15	4		O	6	14	5	2		20	8	3	13	14
24		3						21	5		19		1
7	22	2		13	15		1	13	2	21	19	19	5
5				2			5		12		7		
20	4	21	14		O	6		9		O	24	5	2
		8		20		17			13				5
15	2	3	13	20	5	2			2	5	11	13	18
21		5		6			O				21		10
23	2		O	11		O	1	2	21		N	13	10
5		3		2		3			18		16		N
2	5	20	13	14	3	5			5	9	5	15	10

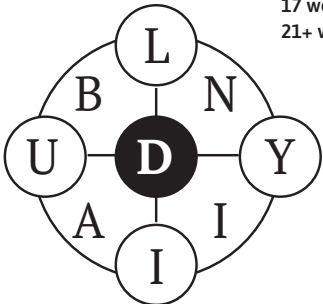
SOLUTIONS

O	N	K	N	O	A	X	F	S	S	A	Y	P	K	N
92	57	17	52	27	12	00	61	81	51	91	51	11		
I	1	17	11	01	01	6	8	9	5	14	5	3	2	1

9-Letter

No. 044

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



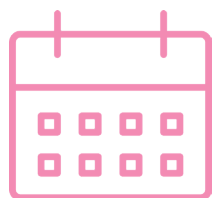
Today's Focus:
13 words: Good
17 words: Very good
21+ words: Excellent

SOLUTIONS

Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

audibly, badly, bald, band, bandy, baud, bind, bland, blind, build, daily, daub, dial, dual, duly, idly, INAUDIBLY, inland, lady, laid, land, laud

WHAT'S ON February



Experience the inner city buzz
this month with festivals,
markets, exhibitions and more.



FIRE SERVICES MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

Discover the rich history of firefighting through more than 10,000 artefacts that bring to life the heroic stories and defining moments that have shaped fire services in Melbourne and beyond.

39 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne

OPEN THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SUNDAY



CELEBRATE MEXICO: TEQUILA VS MEZCAL

Join Chief Distiller, Antony Anderson, and celebrate Mexico's national day by learning about the agave-based spirits, tequila and mezcal.

Life's Too Short Bar, Shop 2/412
Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

2 FEBRUARY – 21 JUNE, 2PM – 5PM



THE CORSET: FACTS, LEGACIES AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Join Dr Sarah Bendall as she uncovers the complicated history of the corset, and the idea of women being oppressed by them.

The Johnston Collection, 192 Wellington
Parade, East Melbourne

8 FEBRUARY, 2PM – 4PM



JOSEPH TAWADROS AM IN CONCERT

Joseph Tawadros AM is a leading oud virtuoso, composer and 8-time ARIA winner. Join in for his storytelling and joyous style of performance.

Church of All Nations,
180 Palmerston St Carlton

30 JANUARY, 7PM – 8.30PM



SUNSET SERIES: PRINCES PARK

Take on Princes Park in the second of the Sunset Series! This is the perfect course for you to set a brand new PB - it's fast and flat.

Princes Park, Carlton North

WED 19 FEBRUARY, 5.30PM – 9PM



STOMPERS

Encourage your child to have a lifelong love of books at Stompers at Kathleen Syme Library. Enjoy approximately 40 to 50 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities with your child.

Kathleen Syme Library, Carlton

3 FEBRUARY – 31 MARCH



PAYPAL MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL

Explore the rich tapestry of the Victorian and Australian fashion industry through a 15-day programme of over 80 unique events, including the Premium Runway Series.

Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton

21 FEBRUARY – 8 MARCH

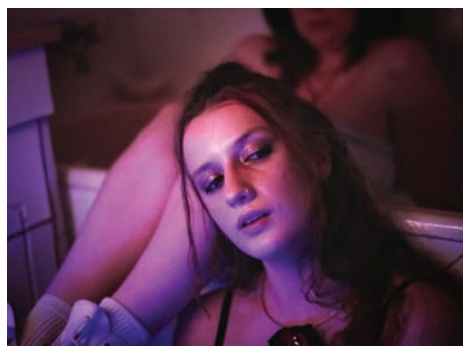


DEEP TIME REAL TIME

Deep Time Real Time: The 2025 Alastair Swain Legacy Exhibition explores design's relationship to planetary systems through two opposing time scales – deep time and real-time.

RMIT Design Hub Gallery Level 2,
Building 100, RMIT University, Carlton

25 FEBRUARY – 12 APRIL



EQUALS

In the wake of moving from a small town to big city Naarm, two young people are locked in a sharehouse bathroom at a bad party. Watch them figure out who they must become to survive.

The Motley Bauhaus, Carlton

UNTIL 2 FEBRUARY



CELLAR DINNER: MARSANNE OR VIOGNIER

From the private cellar of sommelier, Antony Anderson, comes this exclusive tasting of five old Marsanne and/or Viognier blended wines matched to a three-course extravaganza.

Life's Too Short Bar, East Melbourne

22 FEBRUARY, 7PM 10.30PM



COLLECTING EMBROIDERY AND NEEDLEWORK

Alison Cole collects in the narrow field of Goldwork and Stumpwork embroidery and needlework tools. This presentation tells her personal story.

The Johnston Collection, 192 Wellington
Parade, East Melbourne

8 FEBRUARY, 2PM – 4PM

Business Directory

CABINET MAKERS



Specializing in kitchen, laundry,
vanity, wardrobe, storage

Free quote, free design

Showroom and factory at
4 Henderson Street
Sunshine North VIC 3020
Jenny 0423 595 388
sales@lnkitchens.com.au

HEALTH & BEAUTY



N°1
WOMEN'S
HEALTH

women's
health
matters

Telephone (03) 9132 9644
www.number1womenshealth.com
no1womenshealth

BE STRONG NOT TIRED

PRIME
40

13 Hyam pl, Carlton 3053

www.prime40personaltraining.com.au

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Proudly representing the
community in inner Melbourne



Evan
MULHOLLAND MP

evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

MSO

FREE
ADMISSION

SIDNEY MYER FREE CONCERTS 2025

FEB 5 Journeys and
Adventures

FEB 15 Jaime conducts
at the Bowl:
Dvořák,
Gershwin
and Ravel

FEB 22 Symphonic
Showcase

The Sidney Myer Free Concerts
are made possible by the MSO
Sidney Myer Trust Fund

